The Last Shot Got Him
Traditional
Banjo Tuning: gCGCD

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This tune comes from a 1930 recording of the Mississippi Possum Hunters, an old time string band led by fiddler John Holloway. It is basically an instrumental interpretation of a song recorded by delta blues great Mississippi John Hurt, who was reportedly a friend. The structure of the tune is very irregular; the A part strain is 10 measures, while the B part strain is only 7. The B part is basically a melodic variation of the A, but without the added turn around. Note that the tune, as played by the Possum Hunters and as tabbed here, ends after a single strain of the A part.

The lyrics to the first verse of John Hurt's The First Shot Missed Him went like this:

The first shot missed him, a mile away,
The last shot got him, so they say,
Oh, the last shot got him,
Oh, the last shot got him.